



## COUNTRY PROFILE

DECEMBER 2004



*Burmese refugees who have fled or been forced from their homes find health care, classes for their children and other assistance in clinics and programs support by USAID in refugee areas in Thailand.*

### THAILAND SNAPSHOT

Capital: Bangkok  
Population: 64.9 million  
GDP per person: \$3,000

**For more information,  
see [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)  
Keyword: Thailand**

### OVERVIEW

The United States has important political, economic, strategic and security interests in Thailand. As a stable democracy in a tumultuous region, Thailand serves as a model for development and makes a useful base of operations for USAID's regional programs in Southeast Asia.



USAID closed its mission in Thailand in 1996, but the ongoing expansion of programs in the greater Mekong region has led to the reestablishment of the mission as a regional hub. USAID's regional programs in Southeast

Asia focus on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, the environment and special foreign policy interests such as trafficking.

### PROGRAMS

#### REGIONAL EFFORTS FIGHT HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS & MALARIA

HIV/AIDS is a growing threat in Asia and the Near East. There are an estimated 8.8 million HIV infections in the region with rapidly expanding epidemics in China, India, Indonesia, Burma and Vietnam. Youth aged 15-24 account for nearly half of all new cases. Tuberculosis also threatens the working population (15-44 years), especially the poor. Developing countries lose as estimated \$12 billion a year to the disease. Asia and the Near East as 5.3 million new cases a year, more than any other region. Infectious diseases do not recognize national borders. Migration for work is common, leading to the further spread of disease and resistance to anti-malarial drugs.

USAID helps countries in Southeast Asia build their ability to research the disease, keep track of its progress, train researchers and caregivers and provide care for those affected in their communities. To stop the spread of multi-drug resistant malaria, USAID works with the most vulnerable groups to identify poor use or quality of anti-malarial drugs and track the spread of the problem. With USAID's help, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand began standard surveillance for malaria. USAID also built hospices and provided home-based care for HIV/AIDS patients in Thailand and Burma.

#### INDONESIANS HOLD HISTORIC ELECTIONS

Energy demand in Asia is expected to increase by nearly 50 percent over the next 15 years. Yet air pollution levels in the largest ANE cities are among the highest in the world, causing an estimated 1.5 million deaths per year. Providing an adequate energy supply for population and economic

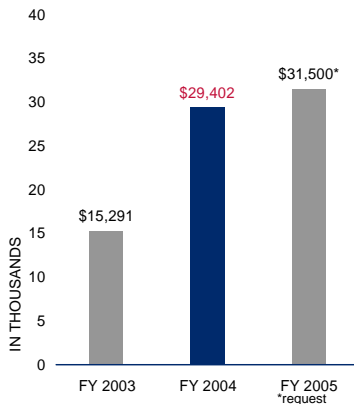


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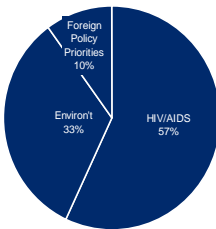
**THAILAND**

## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND



FY 2004 Budget  
Percentage for Each Program Area



growth is a challenge most Asian countries are unable to meet. USAID works with India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam to clean up cities and industries. The programs focus on the big picture, including environmental regulations, city management and producing clean energy. Most of the work is accomplished through partnerships with governments, businesses, universities and nongovernmental organizations. In 2003, USAID supported 113 partnerships and raised \$2.6 million in local funds to promote cleaner cities.

### REGIONAL EFFORTS COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, STRENGTHEN ASEAN AND IMPROVE EDUCATION IN THAILAND & MALAYSIA

East Asia is a major origin and destination for trafficked people. The U.S. Government estimates that 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked between countries each year. Even more are trafficked internally. USAID works with community groups to educate people about the dangers of trafficking and with governments and legal organizations to prosecute traffickers. USAID also assists those who have been trafficked with counseling, training and legal advice, so they can rebuild their lives. In Thailand, USAID helped create a special police unit to fight trafficking and a national action plan. To date, 482 survivors have been given legal aid, and more than 2,500 women and children have received training and welfare assistance. Thai traffickers colluding with the Japanese mafia have been successfully prosecuted.

USAID supports ASEAN in its works to strengthen the organization, cooperate on transnational issues, including trafficking, narcotics and HIV/AIDS; and continue economic reforms and investments. These are senior-level U.S. policy initiatives that complement the work of other donors.

High school programs for youth in Muslim-dominated areas of southern Thailand and northern Malaysia will improve the quality of the school curriculum and teaching. These programs will help the youth find jobs in their nations' increasingly globalized economies.

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